



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

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Senior Charged in Domestic Violence Killing of Wife

A 75-year-old man has been charged with the domestic violence killing of his wife of 35 years, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney David Berger said Thomas Foster (dob 2/11/42) faces one count of murder with handgun use allegations.

Foster pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is scheduled back on Jan. 18 in Dept. W31 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch. Case SA097123 was filed on Jan. 2.

Police conducting a welfare check at a house on the 4000 block of Corinth Ave., in Los Angeles discovered the body of the defendant and a woman on the floor. The woman, Donie Vanitzian, 67, was dead from a gunshot wound while Foster was nearly unconscious, the prosecutor said.

Bail is set at \$3 million. Foster faces a possible maximum sentence of 50 years to life in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Pacific Division.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.